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and software. The present apparatus provides a data connection between laboratory instruments, including, but not limited to, existing blood and blood component collection instruments, such as the Autopheresis-C instrument which is supplied by the Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation located in Deerfield, Illinois, those described in PCT Publication No. WO 01/17584, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,581,687 and 5,956,023, and U.S. Serial No. 09/037,356, and biological treatment instruments, such as the pathogen inactivation instruments described in U.S. Serial No. 09/325,599, which are all assigned to Baxter and are incorporated by reference herein, and the collection facility's management information system which lends itself to automated tracing and/or tracking of donors and biological fluids data logging. Traceability is provided via integration of donor, operator, soft goods, and instrument data. The present invention further automates event reporting which is required for regulatory compliance. - -

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 8 at line 5 and ending on page 8 at line 13 with the following paragraph:

-- In a second embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, the apparatus 10 comprises hardware and software component parts and provides for inter-process communication. Figure 2 shows a first network 12. The first network 12 includes laboratory instruments 20a, 20b, 20c, serial/parallel to Ethernet converters 24a, 24b, 24c, such as a FicoWeb™ device by Lightner Engineering located in San Diego, California or a NetDev™ device by Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation, where needed, a first Ethernet 30, and a system server 34 including a memory, a communication driver for the apheresis instruments, a communication protocol converter, and an HTML application with embedded javascript code.

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Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 62 at line 18 and ending on page 62 at line 26 with the following paragraph:

- - The system 10 also allows a facility to gather data from the laboratory instruments. This data can be monitored in real time, or near real time, from remote locations, the workstation(s), or the PDAs. The present system has the ability to convert parallel data to Ethernet which allows the data to be seen using a common web browser. This enables present system to be integrated into existing blood collection facilities that utilize legacy apheresis instruments having a proprietary pin arrangement, such as the Autopheresis-C plasmapheresis instrument supplied by the Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation. The data conversion is accomplished by the serial/parallel to Ethernet converters or NetDev™ devices 24a, 24b, 24c. - -

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims:

- 38. A method of configuring a blood component collection instrument comprising the steps of:
- collecting a biological characteristic of a donor;
 - calculating a nomogram by utilizing the biological characteristic of the donor;
 - transmitting the nomogram to a blood component collection instrument;
 - selecting a blood component collection application in response to the nomogram, the blood component collection application defining at least a portion of a blood component collection process;
 - and,
 - loading the selected blood component collection application wherein the blood component

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collection instrument is configured for the blood component collection process involving the donor. —

39. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a memory being capable of storing a plurality of blood component collection applications; and,

providing a server for running the blood component collection process, the server being operably connected to the blood component collection instrument and the memory. —

-- 40. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of:

providing a management interface for transmitting the nomogram to the system server. --

-- 41. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

providing an identifier for the donor;

associating the nomogram with the donor identifier; and,

storing the nomogram in the memory. --

-- 42. A method of configuring a blood component collection instrument comprising the steps of:

providing a blood component collection application defining at least a portion of a blood component collection process;

providing a memory being capable of storing a plurality of blood component collection applications;

collecting a biological characteristic of a donor;

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calculating a nomogram by utilizing the biological characteristic of the donor, the donor having an identifier;

associating the nomogram with the donor identifier;

storing the donor identifier in the memory.

transmitting the donor identifier to the blood component collection instrument;

retrieving the nomogram associated with the donor identifier;

selecting a blood component collection application in response to the nomogram;

loading the selected blood component collection application; and,

providing a server for running the blood component collection process, the server being operably connected to the blood component collection instrument and the memory. --

-- 43. The method of Claim 5 further comprising the step of,

providing a management interface for transmitting the nomogram to the system server. --

-- 44. A system for configuring a blood component collection instrument, the blood component collection instrument being operably connected in a blood component collection facility for collecting a blood component from a donor, the system comprising:

a nomogram calculated from at least one biological characteristic of a donor;

a blood component collection application defining at least a portion of a blood component collection process;

a system server being operably connected to the blood component collection instrument, the system server running the blood component collection application, the blood component collection

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application being selected in response to the nomogram wherein the blood component collection instrument is configured for the blood component collection process from the donor; and,

a memory being operably connected to the system server, the memory for storing the blood component collection application. - -

- - 45. The system of Claim 7 further comprising:

a reader for entering the nomogram, the reader being operably connected to the system server wherein the nomogram is associated with the donor. - -

-- 46. A medium readable by a programmable device, the medium having an operating interface for managing a blood component collection facility comprising a blood component collection instrument and a system server, the system server having a memory and being operably connected to the blood component collection instrument, the blood component collection instrument being capable of self-configuring the blood component collection instrument in response to a nomogram received by the system server, the nomogram being calculated in response to a biological characteristic of an identified donor, the medium comprising:

a first segment for receiving the nomogram;

a second segment for selecting a blood component collection application in response to the nomogram;

a third segment for loading the blood component; and,

a fourth segment for configuring the blood component collection instrument in response to the blood component collection application, the configured blood component collection instrument